

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 PM-03 EUR-08 MMS-01 SS-14 SP-01

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R 081022Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9431

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0657

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, MILI, BU

SUBJECT: COM CONCURRENCE FOR NEW DATT

REF: STATE 076814

1. APPRECIATE SOLICITATION AND CONCUR IN APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL GILBERT O. KIRCHOFF AS DEFENSE ATTACHE. HOWEVER, HOPE THAT IN FUTURE A WAY CAN BE FOUND TO AVOID HAVING TWO FULL COLONELS AT THIS SMALL POST. IT IS NOT GOOD PERSONNEL PRACTICE, AND THERE IS NO NEED HERE FOR TWO OFFICERS OF COLONEL RANK. IF SENIORITY HAS TO GOVERN DESIGNATION OF DATT, COLONEL KIRCHOFF OBVIOUSLY WILL BE IT. HOWEVER, THE MOST PROMINENT REQUIREMENTS HERE RELATE TO ARMY MATTERS.

2. RE PARA 3 REFTTEL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP DATT DESIGNATION A SECRET FROM OUTSIDERS. SINCE WE UNDERSTAND AN ARMY COLONEL WILL ALSO BE ASSIGNED TO THIS POST, THE QUESTION WILL INEVITABLY ARISE WHETHER HE SUCCEEDS COLONEL METOSH AS THE RANKING OFFICER AND WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE ATTACHE OPERATION. WE WILL THUS HAVE TO SIGNAL TO ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE BULGARIANS, WHO RUNS THE ATTACHE OPERATION. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF WE DIDN'T AGAIN HAVE TWO OFFICERS OF EQUAL  
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RANK.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEPT OF STATE INSPECTORS WHO INSPECTED POST IN MARCH WILL RECOMMEND THAT SECOND ATTACHE POSITION, IF NECESSARY AT ALL, BE STAFFED BY MAJOR OR CAPTAIN. I SUPPORT TWO-OFFICER ATTACHE OFFICE BUT CONCUR THAT SECOND OFFICER SHOULD BE OF OBVIOUS LOWER RANK THAN DATT, PREFERABLY MAJOR. THIS WOULD MEET POST'S REQUIREMENTS AND ELIMINATE NEED FOR PUBLIC DESIGNATION OF DATT. HOWEVER, SINCE COLONEL NICHOLAS S. KOTAS IS ALREADY IN STREAM OF ASSIGNMENT, I WILL NOT OBJECT TO HIS COMING TO POST.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE IF IN FUTURE I COULD BE QUERIED ON CONCURRENCE IN MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS WELL IN ADVANCE OF COMMENCEMENT OF LANGUAGE AND AREA TRAINING. HERZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SOFIA00657  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750121-0568  
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**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 076814  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COM CONCURRENCE FOR NEW DATT  
**TAGS:** APER, MILI, BU, (KIRCHOFF, GILBERT O)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006